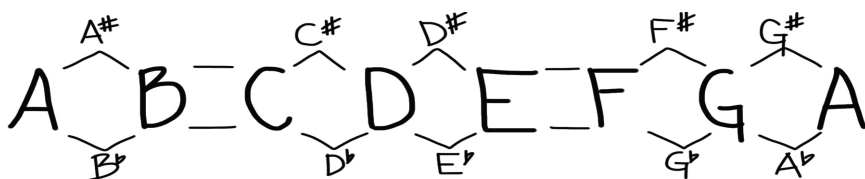
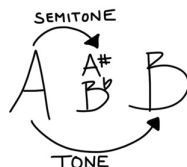


## Musical Alphabet



**Interval** The difference or 'distance' between two pitches.

**Semitone** the smallest interval (S)



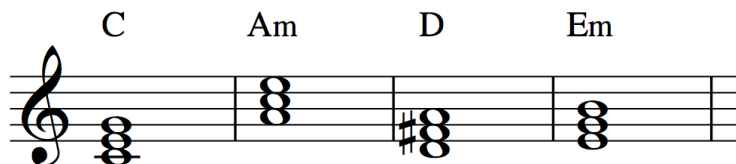
**Tone** An interval that is two semitones apart (T)

**Scale** A set of musical notes. Different scales have different patterns of intervals between the notes.

**Major Scale** uses a pattern of:



**Chords** are named after *their own root* not the root of the key. The basic chords have 3 notes and are called triads; the most common triads are Major Chords and Minor Chords.



**Major Chords** are built from their root (the letter seen in the chord) and use the intervals of a major 3<sup>rd</sup> and a 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Major 3<sup>rd</sup>** an interval of 4 Semitones.

**5<sup>th</sup>** an interval of 7 Semitones.



Root



Major 3rd



5th

*A quick way to figure these notes out is to skip every other note in the major scale that has the same root as the chord.*

**Minor Chords** are built from their root and use the intervals of a minor 3<sup>rd</sup> and a 5<sup>th</sup>

**Minor 3<sup>rd</sup>** an interval of 3 Semitones.

**5<sup>th</sup>** an interval of 7 Semitones.



Root



Minor 3rd



5th

*Another way to figure these notes out is to skip every other note in the major scale that has the same root as the chord, and then flatten or lower the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Another way to think of building this chord is that it uses the Root, Flat 3 and Fifth.*

Major and minor triads or chords are usually what we start with when we learn guitar or piano. Sometimes referred to as 'Cowboy Chords' they use combinations of the 3 notes in each triad, sometimes repeating or reusing the same notes.

## Jazz Chords, Tetrads or 4 note Chords.

**6<sup>th</sup> chord** built from their root and use the intervals of a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and a Major 6<sup>th</sup>.

C6



Root



major 3rd



5th



major 6th

Whether you are building a Cm6 or a C6 you will always use the interval of a major 6. The only note that changes is the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**m6<sup>th</sup> chord** built from their root and use the intervals of a minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and a Major 6<sup>th</sup>.

Cm6



Root



minor 3rd



5th



major 6th

### The Big Table of Intervals

Interval (classical name)	# of Semitones	Alternate names
Minor 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1	Semitone
Major 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2	Tone
Minor 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	
Major 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	
Perfect 4 <sup>th</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup>	5	
Diminished 5 <sup>th</sup>	6	Augmented 4th
Perfect 5 <sup>th</sup> or 5 <sup>th</sup>	7	
Minor 6 <sup>th</sup>	8	#5 (sharp 5)
Major 6 <sup>th</sup>	9	
Minor 7 <sup>th</sup>	10	Dominant 7
Major 7 <sup>th</sup>	11	maj7
Octave (8 <sup>th</sup> )	12	

## Jazz Chords, Tetrads or 4 note Chords, continued

**7<sup>th</sup> chords** or **Dominant 7 Chords** are built from their root and use the intervals of a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.

C7



Root



Major 3rd



5th



Minor 7<sup>th</sup>

**m7<sup>th</sup> chords** are built from their root and use the intervals of a minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.

Cm7



Root



minor 3rd



5th



Minor 7<sup>th</sup>

**Maj7 Chords** or **Major 7<sup>th</sup> Chords** are built from their root and use the intervals of a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and a major 7<sup>th</sup>.

Cmaj7



Root



Major 3rd



5th



Major 7<sup>th</sup>